



## Barry's Surgery Update

As many of you know, I had surgery on February 7th that was intended to close my colostomy that I have lived with for 12 years. Unfortunately, there were complications such that the surgery was not successful and I ended up spending over 3 weeks in the hospital to remove part of my colon, put in a new colostomy, and receive treatment for some internal infections. I was released from the hospital on March 2nd and continued to receive outpatient treatments for another 3 weeks. Needless to say I was unable to do any ministry work during that time. I was then at home recovering for another two months.



With any surgery there are always the risks of complications, and I was aware of them. While the infections were serious, God still healed me from those. So essentially I am back to where I was before the surgery, still having a colostomy bag, although the new bag is in a different location and will require some adjusting to. So, like the Apostle Paul's "thorn in the flesh", I too accept that it is God's will that I still have a colostomy bag and will continue to find His strength in my weakness! (2 Corinthians 12:7-9)

I have now fully recovered, returned to my office and am able to continue my ministry work. I will resume travel and training with a trip to Kyrgyzstan in June.

Thank you all for your love, prayers and encouragement for Kim & I during my hospitalization and recovery. You are truly a blessing to us!!

## FaithLife Announces 2018 MCL Trainer Award Winners!

Each year we like to recognize the efforts that members of our Global Trainer Network have made in spreading and multiplying our **Management for Church Leaders™** training.

We are pleased to announce the winners of our **MCL Trainer Awards** for 2018. They are as follows:

1. **Multiplier Award - Pastor James Ochwo of Uganda**, who trained 956 leaders last year.
2. **Organizer Award - Pastor Kiyingi Emmy of Uganda**, who conducted 12 conferences in 2018 with 11 of them in Uganda and one in Tanzania, and most of them without any fund support.
3. **Missionary Award - Pastor Wilson Esambe of Cameroon**, who conducted training in 5 nations in 2018. He did training in Cameroon, Liberia, & Togo and introduced our training to Equatorial Guinea & Sao Tome!!
4. **Overcomer Award - Muqaddar Johnson of Pakistan**, who overcame the persecution of Christians in his country and the death of his brother, Dr. Muqaddam Zia, to continue our training in his place for their ministry!
5. **Dedication Award - Pastor Stephine Obonyo of Kenya** who continues to demonstrate his commitment to our training through the many training conferences he conducted last year while also seeking new contacts and opportunities for it in Kenya as well!

**Congratulations to each of our winners for 2018!**

## Albania & Greece Training Report

Barry traveled to **Korce, Albania** (see photo) & **Thessaloniki, Greece** **January 7-20th** to train pastors and church leaders on our **Management for Church Leaders** training. There were about 45 leaders in Korce and



12 in Thessaloniki who received the training. Barry's training partner, **Bob Mohle**, came down with the flu the day we were to leave and so was unable to join him on this trip. But the Lord gave Barry the strength to do all the training in both locations. Barry also preached on Sunday in Thessaloniki and did some teaching for 15 new believers at the church as well. The trip began with a treacherous drive up the mountain to Korce in a major snowstorm. God brought us through it although many who planned to attend the training could not get there. But our training was well received by those who came and many expressed their thankfulness in receiving this training. We thank God for also enabling us to train a group of Iranian refugees as well as Arabic speaking believers in Thessaloniki.

It was a wonderful trip that reminds us that despite our plans God is always in control! **"Many are the plans in a man's heart but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails!" - Proverbs 19:21**

## Reaching Iranian Christians

One of the nations we would like to reach with our training is Iran. There are many Christians in Iran, although most of them have been forced to meet secretly so it would be difficult for us to go there and train them. Despite this obstacle we are still able to train Iranian Christians. How is that possible you might ask?

Well, I was recently in Thessaloniki, Greece training at a church that has an outreach to Iranian



refugees who have fled their country and now live and work there. Several of them came to our training (see photo). Although our training was in English,

Loucas, one of the church leaders, spoke Farsi and was able to translate for them (*Loucas is on the left in the photo*). Navid, on the right, shared his incredible testimony with me of how Christ first came to him in a dream and gave him the gift of healing, which he has used to heal many people! He also shares the gospel with other Iranians in Greece. What a powerful witness to Christ's power to draw people to Him and to use them for His purposes! Please pray for them and their ministry in Greece!

## 2018 Training Results

Last year was another good year of training for our ministry. In total we trained 8,202 pastors and church leaders via 141 conferences in 32 different nations! Of those 32 different nations, 7 of them were new for our training this year (**Grenada, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Laos, Angola, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome**). In addition, we sent out 122 copies of our MCL self-training book in 2018 and have confirmed that 7 of those recipients are from new nations for our training and have completed the training as well (**Haiti, Lesotho, Swaziland, Vanuatu, Canada, Brunei and Lebanon**). Of those, 5 of them are also teaching it to others in their nations! Consequently, by the end of 2018 we had reached 85 nations with our training towards our goal of 100! Praise God!

We have also added 3 new global MCL Trainers to our network last year (**Nigeria, Cameroon & Lesotho**) while also enabling several others outside of the network to train our material as well.

God had really been at work through our ministry in 2018 and we are thankful for all that He has done!

## Global MCL Training



Thus far in 2019 there have been 40 **MCL training conferences** held by our global network trainers in 12 nations. Thus far they report having trained **3,112** pastors and church leaders. Here are a few highlights:

1. **Pastor Kiyingi Emmy** trained 156 pastors and leaders in **Nakaseke, Uganda**.
2. **Pastor James Ochwo** from Uganda trained 147 pastors and leaders in **Kabenguria, Kenya**.
3. **Dr. Martin Baboka** from **South Africa** trained pastors and church leaders in **Windhoek, Namibia** in January. This is the first ever training in Namibia!
4. **Pastor Gordon Onyango** trained 261 pastors, bishops, evangelists, youth leaders and others in the town of **Busia, Kenya**.
5. **Muqaddar Johnson** trained 111 pastors and church leaders in the cities of **Kunri & Tando Adam Khar** in **Pakistan**.
6. **Pastor Gideon Nair** trained 23 pastors and church leaders in the village of **Belgaon, India**.
7. **Pastor Rajendra Sundas** trained 50 pastors in the town of **Sarlahi, Nepal**.
8. **Pastor Robert Oluoch** is training 38 students at his **Kigali Bible College** in **Kigali, Rwanda**.
9. **Pastor Jasper Goka** trained 50 pastors and church leaders in the town of **Bawku, Ghana**.
10. **Pastor Steve Obonyo** has trained 232 pastors and church leaders in 7 conferences & locations in **Kenya**.

## **Training or Discipling?**

In our training on **Making Disciples** (*Chapter 8 in our Management for Church Leaders Training Manual*) we ask our training participants if there is a difference between training and discipling. Typically, they all say yes but sometimes have difficulty in articulating the difference. We explain that teaching is about passing along information or knowledge to someone else. Discipleship, on the other hand, is about applying that information or knowledge in one's life or ministry. In other words, teaching is about knowing whereas discipleship is about doing.

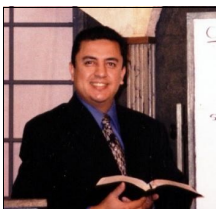
When I was a child in school I would often say things like "*when I am ever going to use algebra in my life*" and "*why do I have to learn this stuff*?" It was because I couldn't see how I might eventually apply what I learned in school when I grew up. But it did end up benefiting me in my career. The same is true about God's Word. The Bible says in **James 1:22**, "***Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.***" God wants what's best for us and so he not only teaches us through His Word but also encourages us to apply what we learn from it in our lives so that it benefits us. That's discipleship!

Jesus declares that we are all to "**go and make disciples of all nations**" (**Matthew 28:19**). Consequently, in this ministry we too are called to make disciples. That means we not only teach God's Word but we also encourage those we teach to put it into practice.

When I train on discipleship I also always ask the participants if they think we are teaching or discipling. They most often reply that we are teaching. I then respond with a sad face and say I hope not. That's because our goal is not just to teach church management principles to them but to see them apply them in their lives and ministries. Then it will become discipleship!

So when we go out and train, our goal is to see them put our training into practice so that discipleship takes place and not just teaching.

## **Dominican Republic Training in July!**



**Dr. Diego Cruz**, our global MCL Trainer in **Guatemala**, will be taking our MCL training to the **Dominican Republic** from **July 1st - 8th**. Our training has never been taught there and Diego has contacts there who became excited about our training when they heard about it. So they invited him to come and teach it. I am unable to join him but can assist him with some funding that he needs. The plan is that he will be training in several locations throughout the nation to maximize his time and impact there. Please keep Diego and this training in your prayers.

## Our 2019 Schedule

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Purpose/Host</u>
Jan 10-11	Korce, Albania	MCL #1 - <i>Petrit Lleshi, CRU</i>
Jan 12-15	Thessaloniki, Greece	MCL #1 - <i>Petrit Lleshi, CRU</i>
Jun 10-14	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	MCL #1 & #2 - <i>Helen Tsurekova, Silk Road Bible College</i>
Jul 14	Knoxville, TN	<b>Ministry Update Presentation - Grace Lutheran Church</b>
Jul 31- Aug 2	Freeport, Bahamas	MCL #1 - <i>John Wildgoose, Nazarene Church</i>
Oct 1-8	Cairo, Egypt	MCL #1 Training - <i>Wahid Wahba, MELTI</i>
Nov 2	Cumming, GA	<b>Annual FLM Board of Directors Meeting</b>



### Prayer Requests

- For God's provision for our **global network trainers** and their continued training of our material through the world.
- For God's protection of our Global MCL Trainers who face persecution from

their governments and cultures, especially in **Pakistan, Nepal, China and India.**

- Thankfulness to God for **Barry's healing and recovery** from his surgeries and the complications that arose from them.
- For God's provision of **finances and trainers** for **FaithLife Ministries** training needs.
- For God's provision and protection for **Dr. Diego Cruz** and his training conferences in the **Dominican Republic** in July.
- God's wisdom and guidance for Barry as he develops and prepares our **annual fundraising appeal** in June.

### News & Notes



- **Tax receipt letters** were mailed out in January to all those who donated \$250 or more in a single donation.
- We reached two new nations in January - **Greece and Namibia** - bringing our total to 87 nations!
- Our MCL training was also translated into **Greek**. We now have 23 translations of our MCL!
- Since January 1st we have sent out 48 copies of our **MCL Training Book** to recipients from 17 nations. That brings our total to 267 MCL Training Books that have been requested from our website.
- Barry & Kim will be going to **Knoxville, TN** on **July 14th** to give a ministry update presentation to **Grace Lutheran Church**.
- Our annual **Board of Directors meeting** will be held on **Saturday, November 2nd** in **Cumming, GA.**

### Barry's Training Plans

Due to Barry's surgeries and recovery time we had to postpone our training in **Grenada** in March until next year. Barry's next training trip is to **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan June 5-15th** at the **Silk Road Bible College**. Barry will also go to train in **Freeport, Bahamas** in early August through a contact he met over 15 years ago. Barry also has been invited to **Cairo, Egypt** in the Fall to train key leaders & trainers at the **Middle East Leadership Training Institute (MELTI)**.

*Thank you for your prayers & support!*

*Barry & Kim*

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